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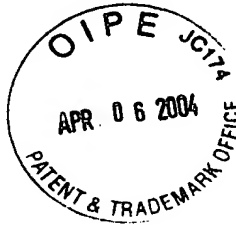
In re PATENT APPLICATION of

ESCH *ET AL.*

Application Serial No.: 09/986,468

Filed: November 8, 2001

Title: PRECIPITATED SILICAS



Group Art Unit: 1754

Examiner: HENDRICKSON, S.L.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.96, 1.97, and 1.98, the applicants request consideration of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. As these documents are U.S. patents, copies of the cited documents are not enclosed.

The applicants do not waive any rights to appropriate action to establish patentability over the listed documents should they be applied as references against the claims of the present application. This statement should not be construed as a representation that more material information does not exist or that an exhaustive search of the relevant art has been made.

This Information Disclosure Statement is intended to be fully compliant with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.96, and 1.97. However, should the examiner find any part of its required content to have been omitted, the applicants earnestly solicit prompt notice to that effect, along with additional time under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(f) to enable the applicants to comply fully.

The applicants respectfully request consideration of the cited documents and making the same of record in the prosecution of the above-identified application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed along with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Therefore the applicants believe that no fee is due.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

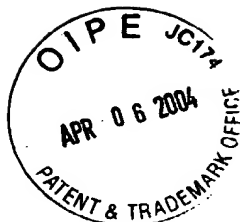
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/986,468
Filing Date	11/08/2001
First Named Inventor	HEINZ ESCH
Art Unit	1754
Examiner Name	Hendrickson, S.L.
Attorney Docket Number	021123-0282431

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	1	US- 5,256,196	October 26, 1993	Chjonowski et al.	
	2	US- 5,484,581	January 16, 1996	Esch et al.	
	3	US- 5,705,137	January 6, 1998	Goerl et al.	
	4	US- 5,846,506	December 8, 1998	Esch et al.	
	5	US- 5,859,117	January 12, 1999	Goerl et al.	
	6	US- 5,871,867	February 16, 1999	Rausch et al.	
	7	US- 5,925,708	July 20, 1999	Esch et al.	
	8	US- 6,214,383	April 10, 2001	Esch et al.	
	9	US-			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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